

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0416

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, LU
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR PIERRE FRANCOIS WURTH TO NATO

REF: NATO 04057

1. THE SHIFT OF PIERRE WURTH FROM MFA SECRETARY GENERAL TO LUXEMBOURG'S NATO PERM REP HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME BUT NEVER OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. WURTH CONFIRMS, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL TAKE UP HIS NEW POSITION IN BRUSSELS IN SEPTEMBER, 1977.

2. WHILE GASTON THORN HOLDS THE TITLE OF FOREIGN MINISTER AS WELL AS PRIME MINISTER, PIERRE WURTH AS NUMBER TWO IN THE MFA HAS MANY OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF A FOREIGN MINISTER IN OTHER COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE ACCOMPANIES THORN TO EEC SUMMIT MEETINGS AND MEETS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHILE THORN IS MEETING WITH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. THUS WURTH NOW HOLDS THE MOST INFOLUENTIAL AND PRESTIGIOUS POSITION IN THE LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN SERVICE.

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3. WURTH IS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND AND GREAT ADMIRER OF THORN. HE HAS PRIVATELY ADMITTED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO STAY IN HIS PRESENT JOB FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO BUT THAT HIS WIFE, WHO IS OF BELGIAN ORIGIN, WANTED TO LIVE IN A LARGER, MORE COSMOPOLITAN CITY. WURTH SAID THORN GAVE HIM HIS PICK OF POSTS AND HE CHOSE NOAT AS THE MOST STIMULATING, GIVEN HIS EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS.

4. WURTH HAS BEEN A PRINCIPAL CONTACT FOR AMERICAN AMBASSADORS AND DCM'S IN LUXEMBOURG DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS. ALL HAVE FOUND HIM FRIENDLY, CANDID AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN HOLDING UP LUXEMBOURG'S END OF THE US/EEC DIALOGUE DURING LUXEMBOURG'S EEC PRESIDENCY IN 1976. HIS STANCH SUPPORT FOR NATO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IS TEMPERED ONLY BY A SLIGHT AND PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE CYNICISM, RESULTING FROM HIS LONG EXPERIENCE WITH MULTI-NATIONAL BUREAUCRACIES, ABOUT THE ABILITY OF SEPARATE NATIONS TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. NONETHELESS, WURTH IS AN ACCOMPLISHED, SELF-CONFIDENT DIPLOMAT WITH A GIFT FOR RECONCILING AND ACCOMMODATING DIVERGENT POINTS OF VIEW. AT NATO HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO REPRESENT LUXEMBOURG'S INTERESTS ENERGETICALLY WHILE WORKING HARMONIOUSLY WITH OTHER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.

5. ON THE PERSONAL SIDE, WURTH IS AN ATTRACTIVE, 51-YEAR OLD CAREER DIPLOMAT, WHO COMES FROM AN OLD, ESTABLISHED, WELL-TO-DO LUXEMBOURG FAMILY. HE HAS WIDE INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS AND A DRY, SELF-DEPRECIATING SENSE OF HUMOR. ALTHOUGH A CHAIN SMOKER, HE PRESENTS A CALM EXTERIOR, IS GENERALLY RELAXED AND INFORMAL AND NOT OVERLY CONCERNED WITH PROTOCOL. HIS INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS RANGE FROM FRENCH LITERATURE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC TO MODERN PAINTING AND SCULPTURE, OF WHICH HE HAS A SMALL BUT CAREFULLY SELECTED COLLECTION. HE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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AN AVID BUT NOT ESPECIALLY PROFICIENT GOLFER. WURTH IS FLUENT IN FRENCH AND GERMAN, SPEAKS SOME RUSSIAN AND HAS AN EXCELLENT COMMAND OF ENGLISH. HIS WIFE, JEANINE, IS A TALL, STRIKINGLY ATTRACTIVE VIVACIOUS BRUNETTE, WHO SHARES HER HUSBAND'S INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS. SHE IS AN INTELLIGENT AND ACCOMPLISHED WOMAN IN HER OWN RIGHT; FOR EXAMPLE, SHE HAS REGULARLY GIVEN LECTURES IN ENGLISH AT THE MIAMI UNIVERSITY EXTENSION CENTER IN LUXEMBOURG ON THE HISTORY AND POLITICS OF LUXEMBOURG AND THE EEC. SHE ALSO SPEAKS FRENCH, SOME GERMAN AND A LITTLE RUSSIAN IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH. THE WURTH'S HAVE NO CHILDREN.

6. CURRICULUM VITAE: WURTH WAS BORN IN LUXEMBOURG CITY ON OCTOBER 6, 1926, HE ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL IN LUXEMBOURG UNTIL 1945 WHEN HE SERVED A YEAR IN THE LUXEMBOURG ARMY AS A LIEUTENANT. AFTER THE WAR, HE STUDIED LAW IN PARIS FOR THREE YEARS, RETURNING TO LUXEMBOURG IN 1951 WITH A DOCTORATE IN JURISPRUDENCE. HE JOINED THE LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1952 AND

SERVED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNTIL 1954; AS CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES IN PARIS (1954-59); AGAIN IN THE MFA AS
DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR (1959-63); AS LUXEMBOURG'S
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS (1964-68); AS LUXEMBOURG'S
AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.S.R. (1968-71); AND AS SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (1971-PRESENT).
DURING HIS 1959-63 TOUR AS MFA DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR,
HE WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR NATO AFFAIRS. HE HAS
VISITED THE UNITED STATES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS,
MOST RECENTLY AS A MEMBER OF THORN'S PARTY DURING HIS
OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE FALL OF 1976. PHILLIPS

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